

Dartmouth Players

Our Mission: To bring the magic of live theatre to the residents of HRM

Dartmouth Players
33 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth
Mailing Address:
23 Wildwood Boulevard
Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7

March 2010 Newsletter

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Hotline: (902) 465-PLAY (465-7529)
E-mail: info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca
Website: www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

The Importance of Being Earnest - Oscar Wilde Director's Notes

While sitting through our first read-through I couldn't help but imagine my actors on stage. I have been a fan of Oscar Wilde for many years and feel that it is my duty to bring back the classics. I want to remind the community why we study these works of literature in school: it is because of the cultural significance, the style of writing, and the emotions they evoke in anyone who reads them. I had these feelings when I first handed out the scripts and again during our first time on stage. The actors melded with the characters and became a part of this



work of written art. They have been entrancing. You can never fully appreciate a play until you see it performed by a talented group of people. The characters in this play are meant to support each other. They all have a purpose; not a single character could be removed or altered. Oscar Wilde was a fan of mocking the English upper classes at the turn of the century. He was much ahead of his time in the sense that he realized how ridiculous some of the traditions and actions of these people were. What made it all the more influential and controversial was that he, himself was born into the upper classes. His lines are carefully executed and poetically constructed, creating a satirical comedy based on the many meanings of words and the many ways people manipulate them. Please laugh and enjoy the show!

Director, Isabelle Thériault

Dress Rehearsals for Charity

The dress rehearsal performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest* will take place **8pm Monday Apr. 5**, with proceeds supporting the charities below. Please make reservations through:

- **Greater Halifax Hospice Society** Carolyn Fougere: 446-0929
mary_hickey@avivacanada.com
- or
- **Oakwood Terrace Auxiliary** Nancy Manuel: 435-3071

Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Wed. to Sat. 8pm,
April 7 - 24
Sunday Matinees
April 11 & 18 2pm
Reservations Open Mar. 17
Adults \$15
Seniors/Students \$12

Reserve at
www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca
or call 465-PLAY as of March 17.

Reservations are held until 10 minutes prior to curtain. At that time they will be given to anyone waiting for cancellations. If you find that you need to cancel your reservation, please call us before 5 PM at 465-PLAY and leave a message.

Dartmouth Players is a **not-for-profit** society and a federally registered **charity**. No one is paid; we are all volunteers with the objective of bringing the magic of live theatre to the residents of HRM.

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"In response to the ongoing crisis in Haiti brought about by the January 12 earthquake, Dartmouth Players has made a donation to *Doctors Without Borders* in Haiti, on behalf of the Board of Directors and DP members."

Dartmouth Players Reservations and Tickets Handling

Our reservations department will no longer be making confirmation phone calls to those people who reserve online. Instead, a confirmation email will be sent. Phone calls will still be made to those people who reserve seats by phone.

Purchase Tickets, Subscriptions and More Online. In the previous issue of the newsletter, we had publicized that online ticket sales, via the DP website, would be available as of October 14, 2009. We apologize that, due to technical difficulties, we have been unable to keep that commitment. We ask for your patience while we continue to work on this issue. Subscriptions and membership, however, continue to be offered through the website, www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca.

There will be only 2 advance ticket sellers for the 2009 - 2010 season:

Fisher's Stationery and Smitty's Restaurant

AUDITION NOTICE



by R.T. Robinson

Three of the Cliffert brothers are off to war and the young wives have moved in with their Mother-in-law. Life magazine decides theirs would be a good cover story and sends Kate Miller to interview them and write the story. Kate finds more than she bargained for in the 3 young women and the more she learns about the Cliffert women, the more she learns about herself.

Funny, sad, uplifting and tragic, *The Cover Of Life* is a slice of life in a very difficult time.

To play the roles of the Cliffert women and those around them, I am looking for three women in their early 20's and three women in their mid to late 40's. The age is only a base number, please come audition no matter what age you are.

Auditions: Sunday, March 28th, 6 – 9 PM and Monday, March 29th, 7-10, upstairs at Dartmouth Players.

The play will run June 9 to 26, 2010

Dartmouth Players 2009-2010 Season

Anything Goes by Cole Porter	November 2009 directed by the Tyner Team
Woman in Mind by Alan Ayckburn	February 2010 directed by Andrew Coll
The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde	April 2010 dir. by Isabelle Theriault
The Cover of Life by R.T. Robinson	June 2010 directed by Ian MacDermid

The *Dartmouth Player* Newsletter is published five times a year.

To be added to our mailing list free of charge, please send your name and address to:

Dartmouth Players
23 Wildwood Blvd.
Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7
or e-mail: ctyner@eastlink.ca

Editor: Bryn Rowlands

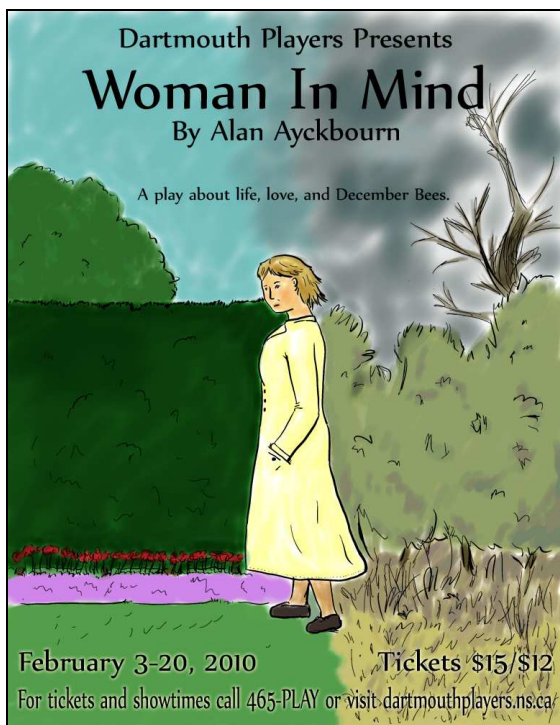
Next deadline: Apr. 28, 2010

Please let us know if you would prefer an e-mail link to our colour version only.

www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

Parking Notice

Patrons and volunteers are reminded that during performances, the parking lot in the upper courtyard is reserved for the vehicles of persons who have difficulty with mobility. Patrons and volunteers who do not have mobility difficulties are requested to use the church and school parking areas.



My, how fast time has flown! It feels like we just started rehearsals yesterday (actually, that was in November), and now we're done. My directorial debut was a surprisingly smooth and fun-filled ride, in large part thanks to my able crew, who never once let me down. The cast also made life extremely easy, always willing to take direction or make suggestions; they got into their characters, and it showed! Leslie Milne, who played Susan, is probably taking a long and well-deserved rest after delivering a bravura performance night after night, and she deserves it.

I'm not so much tired as sad: over the past four months, we became a family, and it was tough to part ways with everyone. I'm sure everyone else feels the same way. However, there's always "another openin', another show" where we can get together again. Maybe not in Philly, Boston, or Baltimore (to quote *Kiss Me, Kate*), but Dartmouth is just fine with me! Thanks to all of you who came to see the show, and I hope to see you again soon!

Oh, and by the way, for those of you still desperately wondering, "December Bee" means "Remember Me?", with all of the thematic implications that follow...

Director Andrew Coll

Scholarship Opportunities for High School Students

Dartmouth Players supports performing arts education and has provided theatre arts training and scholarships to many promising young Nova Scotians. Through the Clare Authers Memorial Scholarship, DP awards two scholarships annually, one each to a graduate of Dartmouth High, and Prince Andrew High. Graduating students who will be pursuing post-secondary education in the performing arts are eligible to apply, and may do so through the Student Services Dept. at their school. The application form can be found on our website at:

www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca/scholarship.php

The application deadline this year is May 29.

Please forward the completed form to the Dartmouth Players

c/o 23 Wildwood Blvd.

Dartmouth, NS

B2W 2L7

Att'n: Scholarship Co-ordinator

Scholarship Opportunities for DP Members

Members of Dartmouth Players furthering their theatre interests through an educational opportunity are encouraged to apply for one of our members' scholarships. For more info, please call 465-PLAY.

Theatre Notice: Bedford Players

Bedroom Farce by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Stacey Fownes.

Bedroom Farce is about one couple inflicting their marital issues on those near and dear. All of the action takes place in three separate bedrooms.

The show will run from April 22nd to May 8th (Thursday to Saturday).

Visit bedfordplayers.ns.ca or phone 832-3300

Bedford Players at All Saints Church Hall,

1408 Bedford Highway, Bedford, Nova Scotia

Upstage Studios Summer Camps 2010

If you have ever dreamed of starring in musicals like

Mamma Mia, Grease and Hairspray
here is your opportunity

A fun-filled week of Musical Theatre Camp
Each week the students will work as a group
with a singing, dancing and drama coach
to prepare a theatrical production on the
stage, upon completion of each camp
No prior experience needed, just lots of
enthusiasm

Week long camps run through the summer
holidays, 9 am till 4 pm Monday till Friday
Cost \$150.00 for full week

To find out more and to register go to

www.upstagehalifax.ca

Or call Susie @ 462 6704

Location: Dartmouth Players Theatre 33
Creighton Ave Dartmouth
Performance 4 pm Friday

July 5 - 9 - **HAIRSPRAY** - Ages 8 and up

July 12 - 16 - **NIGHTMARE BEFORE
CHRISTMAS** -
Ages 8 and up

July 19 - 23 - **THRILLER** - Ages 8 and up

July 26 - 30 - **CRAVING** -
Ages 13+ advanced camp

Aug 2 - 6 - **DIVERSITY** -
Ages 11+ advanced dance camp

Aug 9 - 13 - **WILD AT HEART** -
Ages 8 and up

Aug 16 - 20- **GREASE** - Ages 8 and up

Aug 23 - 27- **MAMMA MIA** - Ages 8 and up

Theatre Arts Guild

How it Works

Written by Daniel MacIvor,

Directed by Michele Moore

April 22nd-May 8th, 2010

Tickets on Sale Friday, March 26th, 11AM

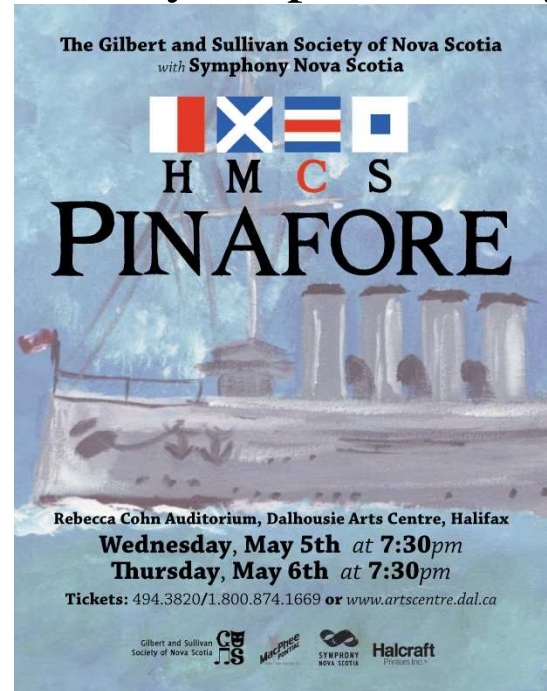
(Adult Theme)

Pond Playhouse

Reservations: (902) 477-2663 or

www.tagtheatre.com

Our Saucy Ship's a Beauty!



HMCS PINAFORE – sailing around this May
flying the flag of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society
of Nova Scotia.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Navy, we
are setting the ever-popular *HMS Pinafore* in 1910
Halifax. It will be as if Canadian sailors of the era are
presenting the comic tale of the lass who loved a sailor.
The Canadian tars will look authentic as they sing in
front of the smokestacks of *HMCS Niobe*. And true to
the spirit of the time, the chorus of “sisters, cousins and
aunts” will include some determined suffragettes. And
we have Symphony Nova Scotia along for the ride.
The show may be Canadianized a little, but all the
essentials remain. The love between a simple sailor and
the captain's daughter. The pompous 'ruler of the seas'
sparring with the good-hearted captain. The singing
saleswoman called Buttercup. The bouncing tunes and
lively lyrics. You'll be tempted to sing along. Oh, go
ahead.

HALIFAX :

**Wednesday, May 5, Thursday, May 6, 7:30
pm with Symphony Nova Scotia. Rebecca
Cohn Auditorium at the Dalhousie Art
Centre Box office: 902-492-3820 or 1-800-
874-1669 or www.artscentre.dal.ca**

**Tickets are \$35 regular/ \$30 for seniors,
students and members of the military
(serving or retired.)**

ABOUT OUR DIRECTOR FOR
The Importance of Being Earnest,
Isabelle Thériault



As part of our ongoing series of introducing our directors for our 2009 - 2010 season, I was pleased to sit down recently with Isabelle Thériault who has ousted Andrew Coll as the youngest director (by two months) in the history of Dartmouth Players.

DP: First of all, Isabelle, congratulations on being our youngest ever director. That is quite an achievement. Can you tell us how and when you came to be involved with Dartmouth Players?

Isabelle: Thank you! I was wondering if anyone had noticed (that I was younger than Andrew). I first became involved with the theatre through Susie's classes (Susie Keating's Upstage Studios' Youth Performing Classes, DP). I was a grade 11 student at Kings Academy at the time, when our drama teacher had to leave for a month and was replaced by Pam Lutz (DP alumni, past music instructor for Upstage Studios) and she mentioned that the youth performing group she was involved with needed a stage manager, so I signed up. I was 15 or 16 at the time and then Cliff (Cliff Tyner of DP) needed a dresser for the play he was directing, *Good Things*, so I volunteered. I then did props for *The Clean House*, and stage managed for Bryn (Bryn Rowlands, actor/director/newsletter editor) when he directed *Art* last season.

My first directing role was in high school, when we put on the musical *Clue* with the help of my drama teacher. That was two years ago.

DP: Where does your interest in theatre stem from?

Isabelle: I have been interested in theatre since I was four or five and did voice-over at Neptune's youth theatre classes in the Ford Theatre, for their production of *101 Dalmatians*. I was also involved with school productions and various church productions while I was growing up.

DP: I understand that you have both of your parents involved with this production; can you tell me a little bit about them and the roles that they have taken on?

Isabelle: Yes, my Dad, Daniel Theriault, has been helping out with set construction. He has never understood my interest in theatre, but he understands construction. (laughs) So, in an effort to try and see where my love of theatre is coming from, he's agreed to pitch in and help build our set.

My Mom, Gloria Theriault, has always been a crazy (laughs) crafty person. She is lots of fun and has always been a bit of an eccentric. She's very creative and has made clothes for both of us, so she is helping with costumes. She does a lot of sewing for church productions and has taken courses in arts and crafts.

DP: What drew you to this play and why did you choose *The Importance of Being Earnest*?

Isabelle: I really like the classics. Oscar Wilde is one of my favourite writers. The time period is interesting; towards the end of the Victorian era, with all those lovely costumes. I love the language, the writing techniques he used, and the wonderful way he made fun of the social classes and society as a whole, from that era. It is very funny.

DP: What do you hope our audience will take away from this play?

Isabelle: I hope that they will really like it, because it's an old play and it's not every day that we get to see a lot of the old plays anymore. I hope they will remember why these plays are so great and appreciate why they have been around for so many years. It's because they have always been and still are great comedy!

DP: Do you have plans to have a professional career in the theatre or can we expect to see you stay involved with amateur theatre?

Isabelle: I will be staying around amateur theatre for now. You need a lot of training for professional theatre and right now I'm learning a lot about theatre from various books, but the best way to learn, I find, is by doing. So I'm learning a lot from being a Dartmouth Players volunteer and just hanging around the theatre.

I'm currently working on a bachelor of arts through correspondence courses with Athabasca University. I would like to get a Masters of Fine Arts in creative writing. I have several works in progress and I may submit something to an upcoming writers' competition. I would definitely like to write a play some day!

Denise Monbourquette

Dartmouth Players Scent-Free Policy

The Dartmouth Players executive wishes to make our building a comfortable place for all who come to the theatre, whether as volunteers or patrons. To this end, we would like to emphasize that the theatre is a **scent-free space**. We respectfully ask everyone to please be sensitive to others who may become ill or uncomfortable as a result of exposure to perfumes, colognes and other scented products. We thank you in advance for being considerate in this regard.

Our Corporate Sponsors:



Newcomer's Perspective

Elaine Marshall is one of our newest volunteers, and has so far worked as a backstage assistant, and a producer. We are very happy that she has decided to give DP the benefit of her time and considerable theatre experience!



I moved to Nova Scotia in September 2008 and managed just over a year without my theatre fix! I am so glad that I found Dartmouth Players as everyone has been very welcoming, helpful and made me feel at home.

Amateur theatre here is very much the same as the theatre that I left behind in the UK, where I was involved with a group called The Swan Theatre Company in Yeovil, Somerset. It was about the same size as DP and had its own theatre (with very similar stage constraints as here!). One big difference and a huge plus for here, is the number of young folk involved in drama. In rural UK it tends to be predominantly women of more mature years that are involved. It meant that you had to be selective in the plays you wanted to put on. I did stage manage Julius Caesar and with the lack of male actors, the Director found it challenging; the few men we did have performed a number of parts, and the crowd scenes were made up of women. It was manageable and the audience certainly enjoyed themselves. It is so refreshing to see the broad age group that is involved in

drama as well as being part of the audience.

I hope to continue to help out backstage whenever I can – you are unlikely to see me treading the boards as the Scottish accent is rather predominant, but if there is the odd silent role - then I may be persuaded to make my debut.

Elaine Marshall

THEATER ETIQUETTE

At Dartmouth Players we make every attempt to start all of our plays on time:

8:00 for our evening performances and 2:00 for matinees.

Our volunteer actors and crew are there early to prepare for the performance. Most of our patrons arrive nice and early to get good seats (although there are no bad seats,) to socialize and/or to work on the quiz. Our lobby is open an hour before the performance begins and our auditorium from twenty past the hour.

Once the actors have taken the stage it is very unsettling for the actors and audience to have people entering the auditorium. We thereafter discourage late patrons from entering the theatre. Late entries can kill the mood for all those around, including the actors. If you arrive late, we will gladly exchange your tickets for another performance.

On another point, we appreciate the fact that our theatre is a friendly atmosphere where all are comfortable, relaxed and expecting good theatre. What our audience is not prepared for are other audience members who tend to chat during the performance. Unnecessary chatting is distracting for our audience and our actors. With your help we provide a quality theatre experience for our patrons and our volunteers. We appreciate your help and your patronage. Thank you for supporting community theatre.

Quiz Winners, *Woman in Mind*

ADVERTISER	WINNER
Boston Pizza	Patricia Bornhym
Boston Pizza	Lynne ILLSLEY
Boston Pizza	Linda Robinson
Boston Pizza	unknown
Fan's	Mary MacMillan
Fan's	Justin Roy
Fan's	Irene MacNeil
Grafton Street	Mike McKenzie
Grafton Street	Brian Gaulke
Grafton Street	Oliver O'Rourke
Grafton Street	Brian Dillon
Grafton Street	Mary Veniott
Grafton Street	Nicole Holland
Health Basket	Pearl Lilly
Health Basket	Blaine Sherren
Health Basket	A. Connor
Health Basket	Pauline Morehouse
Ma Belle's Café	Carl Beeler
Ma Belle's Café	Aubrey Reynolds
Ma Belle's Café	Harvey Power
Ma Belle's Café	Judy Levy
Neighbour's	Barb Boutilier
Neighbour's	Sheila Harvey
Roccos	Betty Laidlaw
Smittys	Walter Westwood
Smittys	Shari Parsons
Smittys	Devin Skinner
Smittys	Sally King
Trendsetter	Jeni Shannon
Trendsetter	Musgrave Danys
Trendsetter	Conor Friesen
Trendsetter	Sarah Reaburn
Violet Spa	Phyllis Mers
Violet Spa	Penny MacDonald
Violet Spa	Margaret Lemieux
Violet Spa	Gordon Murray
Violet Spa	Alice Ferguson

Audience Comments

You, our valued audience, are invited to make comments about us on the sponsor quiz sheets included in the program for every mainstage play. We welcome all comments, and, if I think you are expecting a reply, I will phone you with an explanation or make an explanation in this column, or both. Your comments can be about our theatre, our play, our people or any suggestion for future plays. We read all comments and will summarize them here after every play.

Anything Goes

All of the comments for *Anything Goes* were positive; about the acting and singing, the music, the set, the costumes, and the friendliness of our volunteer staff. Your praise for our set and costumes is well earned by our people listed in the program as the 'Creative Team and Crew' who gave many hours to make it all happen.

I phoned a lady who mentioned she was annoyed about the number of people around her who were chewing gum noisily, which she said became very loud during

some of the quiet (romantic) scenes. I am including her comment here for your consideration.

There was a comment requesting more signs to show the door behind the school. The Board of Directors for Dartmouth Players is aware of this signage problem and has discussed it quite often to try to come up with a solution. Meanwhile I should stress that the parking in the upper courtyard is reserved for vehicles of persons who have difficulty with mobility.

A quote from one of the comments: "A great way to celebrate my 89th birthday". Happy Birthday Evelyn!!!!

Woman in Mind

We continue to have audience members request to have a scent free zone. As much as we try by advertising, at the front door, in the program and in the newsletter, we still have audience members wearing perfume.

We do not have the manpower to have a coat check service; however, we do have an area in the lower lobby to hang outer garments. If someone would like to volunteer to run the coat check service for us, we would be extremely grateful.

We were asked if there is a possibility for more legroom. Unfortunately, we have to put up with the spacing we now have. Remember, if you need to sit in the front rows, please advise us when you are making reservations, and we will make an effort to obtain those seats for you.

We would like to remind you that our evening performances start at 8:00 pm and our matinees at 2:00 pm. It is annoying to the cast and audience members to have people arrive late. Seasoned theatre-goers know that the beginning of the play sets the 'stage' for the whole play, and late arrivals miss very important information pertaining to the plot of the play.

Some suggestions you have made for future plays include, *Agatha Christie Mysteries*, *The Fantastiks*, *Kicked* (by Michael Healey), and *Menopause Outhouse*. These suggestions will be passed to our play reading committee.

This play was advertised as a dark comedy. Some of you really liked it and some of you did not. However, this was a very demanding play for our actors, and they had great enjoyment bringing it to you. We still have a lot of first time attendees who enjoyed the play and stated that they will return. It makes us very happy to read remarks like that.

Here is a direct quote from one of the comments: "Extremely intense, to many a reality, to others a comedy, and because of that, the play writer, actors and director have done a great job."

Thank you all for your comments, and keep them coming...

Angus Duncan

